

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6919

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, EINV, EFIN, EC

SUBJECT: NEW MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCES HIS
PROGRAM

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. NEW MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES DANILO CARRERA
ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS AUGUST 25 THAT HE WOULD OFFER AS-
SISTANCE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HE OUTLINED THE FOLLOWING
SEVEN-POINT PROGRAM (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

(1.) TO FORMULATE A MEDIUM-AND LONG-TERM INDUSTRIAL
POLICY TO ALLOW A) THE MAKING OF INVESTMENT DECISIONS
BY ECUADOREAN AND FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURS, B) THE CHANNELLING
OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SECTORS DESIGNATED BY THE
INDUSTRIAL POLICY, C) THE COORDINATION OF THE DEPART-
MENTS OF THE MINISTRY WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS RELATED
TO THE PROCESS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION.

(2.) TO EMPHATICALLY PROMOTE THE EXPORTS OF THE COUNTRY
UTILIZING MODERN MARKETING TECHNOLOGY. TO GIVE TIMELY
ASSISTANCE TO THE ENTREPRENEUR, AND TO GIVE GUIDANCE
TO COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENTS DEPENDENT ON THIS MINISTRY
SO THAT THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH A MORE POSITIVE JOB. TO
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ESTABLISH INCENTIVES AND TARRIFF DUTIES THAT WILL

PERMIT THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPORTING MENTALITY. THE PERMANENT CONCERN OF THIS MINISTRY WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AN INCREASE IN TRADE RELATIONS, THE IMPROVEMENT IN PRICES OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AND THE RATIONALIZATION OF IMPORTS.

(3.) TO HELP AND ASSIST FOREIGN CAPITAL IN ACTIVITIES NOT RESTRICTED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OR BY NATIONAL INTERESTS, AND TO GIVE IT ALL FACILITIES SO THAT IT WILL HAVE A RAPID AND FAVORABLE IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY.

(4.) TO EMPHASIZE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE ANDEAN SUB-REGION TO OBTAIN BENEFITS COMPATIBLE WITH OUR CONDITION AS A COUNTRY OF RELATIVELY LESS DEVELOPMENT, INVITING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SO THAT OUR NEGOTIATIONS ACCORD WITH NATIONAL REALITY WITHOUT DAMAGING THE IMPORTANT INTERESTS OF THE STATE.

(5.) TO REVISE DEVELOPMENT LAWS NOW IN FORCE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT STATUS OF BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY.

(6.) TO REFORM THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY AND ITS MEMBER GROUPS TO PERMIT THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE ABOVE GOALS, ALWAYS PROMOTING A CRITERIA OF EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY AND INCULCATING A MENTALITY OF SERVICE, AS MUCH IN THE HIGHER ECHELONS AS IN THE PUBLIC BUREAUCRACY, AND DECENTRALIZING AUTHORITY FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATION.

(7.) TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER BRANCHES OF SERVICE.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

2. COMMENT: THE NEW MINISTER'S RECENT APPOINTMENT FOLLOWED UPON A WAVE OF CRITICISM FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND HAS GIVEN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE WHO
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ANTICIPATE A CHANGE IN GOE'S ATTITUDES. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER CARRERA HAS SUFFICIENT "CLOUT" TO CHANGE THE GOE'S HARD LINE POLICIES. NEVERTHELESS THE APPOINTMENT OF SUCH A PRIVATE-SECTOR-ORIENTED ECONOMIST PRESUMABLY INDICATES A REAL INTENTION BY THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE GOE TO BRING ABOUT A SHIFT IN POLICIES, IN FAVOR OF PRIVATE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. END CONFIDENTIAL.

BREWSTER

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